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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 24, and 52-55 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of indexing data blocks according to a collection of subject words of the data blocks, comprising:
constructing a N-dimensional coordinate space, wherein N is a cardinality of the collection of subject words of the data blocks; and
~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~
 traversing data block links leading to discovery of cross-subject affinities.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 determining a closeness of any two data blocks in said database.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said determining is performed according to an equation comprising:

$$D(p_1, p_2) = \sqrt{S_{\alpha}(p_1 - p_2)^2}$$

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where D is a data block and p_1, p_2 are points in the N -dimensional space and S is a summation.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein affine documents are determined to be in closer proximity than non-affine documents in a mapping to N -space coordinates.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein all dimensions of said N -dimension coordinate space are considered.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein said data blocks comprise documents, said method further comprising:

building a term-by-document matrix and using all of the terms in N - dimensions in the coordinate space.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
utilizing a column term in the term-by-document matrix as a vector.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, further comprising:
measuring a distance function between data blocks, wherein said distance function is representative of an affinity between two data blocks.

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10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
building a proximity list for each data block.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
navigating through data blocks based on a content of said data blocks, said navigating
being performed by selectively moving from one page to another without traversing a
hypertext link.
12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said data blocks comprise
any of Web pages, images, and database entries indexed such that each data block resides in
a specific point in the N-dimensional coordinate space, and
wherein a placement of the data blocks in the coordinate space is performed such that
data blocks which are relatively closer to each other are related to a same subject.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the proximity list is ordered in ascending
order of proximity, with a closest point being listed first.
14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising reordering the proximity list
by changing a coordinate of a current location.
15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the proximity list is changed when a
current position is changed to a position of a visited data block.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a user selectively follows one of a link from a data block and follows an item in the proximity list, to navigate independently of links found in other data blocks.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein said data blocks are selectively traversable by using hypertext links and by not using hypertext links.

18-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for indexing a database, comprising:

constructing a coordinate system; and
mapping documents of said database into the coordinate system to determine a physical closeness of first and second documents of said database; and
traversing data block links leading to discovery of cross-subject affinities.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently amended) A computer system for indexing data blocks according to a collection of subject words, comprising:

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a construction unit for constructing a N-dimensional coordinate space, wherein N is a cardinality of a collection of subject words; and

~~The system of claim 23, further comprising:~~

traversing data block links leading to discovery of cross-subject affinities.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, further comprising:

a determining unit for determining a closeness of any two data blocks in said database.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said determining by said determining unit is performed according to an equation comprising:

$$D(p1, p2) = \sqrt{\sum_d (p1_d - p2_d)^2}$$

where D is a data block and p1, p2 are points in the N-dimensional space and S is a summation.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein affine documents are determined by said determining unit to be in closer proximity than non-affine documents in a mapping to N-space coordinates.

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28. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, wherein all dimensions of said N-dimension coordinate space are considered.

29. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, wherein said data blocks comprise documents, said construction unit comprising:

a unit for building a term-by-document matrix and using all of the terms in N-dimensions in the coordinate space.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, further comprising:

means for utilizing a column term in the term-by-document matrix as a vector.

31. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, further comprising:

a measuring unit for measuring a distance function between data blocks, wherein said distance function is representative of an affinity between two data blocks.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, further comprising:

a unit for building a proximity list for each data block.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, further comprising:

a navigation unit for navigating through data blocks based on a content of said data blocks, said navigating being performed by selectively moving from one page to another without traversing a hypertext link.

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34. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, wherein said data blocks comprise any of Web pages, images, and database entries indexed such that each data block resides in a specific point in the N-dimensional coordinate space, and

wherein a placement of the data blocks in the coordinate space is performed such that data blocks which are relatively closer to each other are related to a same subject.

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the proximity list is ordered in ascending order of proximity, with a closest point being listed first.

36. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising:

a reordering unit for reordering the proximity list by changing a coordinate of a current location.

37. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the proximity list is changed when a current position is changed to a position of a visited data block.

38. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein a user selectively follows one of a link from a data block and follows an item in the proximity list, to navigate independently of links found in other data blocks.

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39. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said data blocks are selectively traversable by using hypertext links and by not using hypertext links.

40-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended) A computer system for indexing a database, comprising:
a unit for constructing a coordinate system; and
a mapping unit for mapping documents of said database into the coordinate system to determine a physical closeness of first and second documents of said database, wherein indexing said database is performed according to a collection of subject words, such that said coordinate system comprises an N-dimensional coordinate space, wherein N is a cardinality of the collection of subject words;

a determining unit for determining a closeness of any two data blocks in said database; and

a measuring unit for measuring a distance function between data blocks,
wherein said distance function is representative of an affinity between two data blocks,

wherein each said document is represented as a vector which has a position in an N-dimensional coordinate space of N subject words, such that a relationship is independent of any other document, and

wherein a document can be added to the coordinate system without impacting a measurement of any other document.

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45. (Currently amended) A ~~signal-bearing~~computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of recordable, machine- readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a computer-implemented method of indexing data blocks according to a collection of subject words, said method comprising:

constructing a N-dimensional coordinate space, wherein N is a cardinality of a collection of subject words, and
traversing data block links leading to discovery of cross-subject affinities,
wherein each data block represents a document and each said document is represented as a vector which has a position in the N-dimensional coordinate space of N subject words, such that a relationship is independent of any other document, and
wherein another document can be added to the coordinate space without impacting a measurement of any other document.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) A ~~signal-bearing~~computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of recordable, machine- readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a computer-implemented method of indexing a database, said method comprising:

constructing a coordinate system; and

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mapping documents of said database into the coordinate system to determine a physical closeness of first and second documents of said database, wherein indexing said database is performed according to a collection of subject words, such that said coordinate system comprises an N-dimensional coordinate space, wherein N is a cardinality of the collection of subject words; and

traversing data block links leading to discovery of cross-subject affinities.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein each data block represents a document and each said document is represented as a vector which has a position in the N-dimensional coordinate space of N subject words, such that a relationship is independent of any other document.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~2, wherein each data block represents a document and wherein a document can be added to the coordinate space without impacting a measurement of any other document.

50. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~24, wherein each data block represents a document and each said document is represented as a vector which has a position in the N-dimensional coordinate space of N subject words, such that a relationship is independent of any other document.

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51. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 24, wherein each data block represents a document and wherein a document can be added to the coordinate space without impacting a measurement of any other document.

52-55. (Canceled).

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